



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6073
May 3, 2022
Regular Business**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6073: Comprehensive Plan Update Project Status and Selection of Volunteers for Economic Development and Housing Work Groups	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Select two City Councilmembers to serve on the Economic Development Work Group and two City Councilmembers to serve on the Housing Work Group.	

DEPARTMENT:	Community Planning and Development
STAFF:	Jeff Thomas, Interim CPD Director Alison Van Gorp, Deputy CPD Director Adam Zack, Senior Planner
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Housing and Economic Development Work Group Charters
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to brief the City Council on the upcoming work on the Mercer Island Comprehensive Plan update and select members for the Economic Development and Housing Work Groups. Additional summary information includes:

- On March 15, the City Council approved the scope of work, master schedule, public participation plan and work group charters with the adoption of [Resolution No. 1621](#). The scope of work anticipates adoption of the periodic update to the Mercer Island Comprehensive Plan by May 2024.
- Work on the Comprehensive Plan update is now underway. Public outreach has begun, and the City is in the process of contracting with consultants.
- The Planning Commission will review and refine updates to each Comprehensive Plan element via a 3-meeting review process.
- The resulting draft elements will be available for public consideration at a community workshop and a public hearing. The Planning Commission will further refine the drafts based on this public input prior to making a recommendation to the City Council.

- The amendments to the Housing Element and drafting an Economic Development Element will include additional review prior to the Planning Commission process outlined above. Two work groups will prepare and refine the first drafts of these two elements.
- An Economic Development Work Group and a Housing Work Group, each composed of 2 City Councilmembers and 2 Planning Commission members, will develop the initial drafts of the Economic Development Element and the Housing Element, respectively.
- At the April 27 meeting the Planning Commission will select their members for these work groups.

BACKGROUND

The Mercer Island Comprehensive Plan sets forth a vision and establishes goals, policies, and implementation actions for managing and growing into the future. The vision is a statement of how the Comprehensive Plan will guide the City. Comprehensive Plan goals describe what objectives the City will pursue to further the vision. The policies and implementation actions established in the Comprehensive Plan describe what the City will do to achieve its goals and provide crucial guidance for the City in capital improvements, development regulations, and other supporting programs and services.

The Comprehensive Plan considers projected growth during a twenty-year period called a “planning horizon”. Currently, the GMA requires cities and counties to update each respective plan every ten years to extend the planning horizon. The last periodic update of the Mercer Island Comprehensive Plan occurred in 2015 and was adopted in 2016, with a planning horizon extending to 2035. The 2024 Comprehensive Plan update will extend the planning horizon to the year 2044.

On March 15, the City Council approved the scope of work, master schedule, public participation plan and work group charters with [Resolution No. 1621](#). The scope of work anticipates adoption of the periodic update to the Mercer Island Comprehensive Plan by May 2024. Work on the Comprehensive Plan update is now underway. In early April, City staff began interviewing business owners, non-profit organizations, and community members to inform initial work on the Economic Element. Additionally, the City is in the process of contracting with consultants.

Economic Development and Housing Elements

The amendments to the Housing Element and drafting an Economic Development Element will include additional review prior to the Planning Commission process. Two work groups will prepare and refine the first drafts of these two elements. Throughout summer and fall 2022, the work groups will work on shaping the first drafts and collecting community input. Refining the first draft through the work group process should result in first drafts of the Economic Development and Housing elements that will only need minor refinement with the Planning Commission, allowing for the same three-meeting process with the Planning Commission will use for the other elements.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING WORK GROUPS

Work on the Economic Development Element and Housing Element will require an expanded review process. The approved public participation plan includes the creation of two work groups to prepare drafts of the Economic Development and Housing elements. Each work group will be composed of two Planning Commissioners and two City Councilmembers. The work group charters, establishing the rules for the work

groups, are included as Exhibit 1. On April 27, The Planning Commission selected members for the Economic Development and Housing work groups.

The work groups will meet several times through the summer and early fall of 2022. Both work groups will meet at least three times, but there will likely be a couple of additional meetings depending on the amount of public feedback desired once drafting has begun. The first meetings are expected in May and the final meetings are expected no later than November. Serving on a work group will include responsibility for reviewing and refining initial drafts of the Economic Development and Housing elements respectively. This responsibility will be in addition to regular City Council meetings during this time. Scheduling of the work group meetings will be agreed to by members of each group, allowing for some flexibility to accommodate individual schedules.

Selection of Work Group Members

City Councilmembers can volunteer to serve on either the Economic Development or Housing work groups. Each work group requires two City Councilmembers.

NEXT STEPS

Once the City Council has selected members to serve on the Economic Development and Housing Work Groups, staff will coordinate the scheduling of the first work group meetings in May. In early summer, the City Council will be briefed on the Housing Needs Assessment and Economic Analysis.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Select two City Councilmembers to serve on the Economic Development Work Group and two City Councilmembers to serve on the Housing Work Group.